GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6141
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2005
PERMISSION FOR ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO FOREIGN AIRLINES
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission to private airlines to operate internationally;

(b) if so, whether the foreign airlines permitted to operate additional flights to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Indian airports are ready and fully equipped to handle extra air traffic; and

(e) if not, the reasons for giving permission to foreign airlines for operating additional flights without upgrading the Indian airports?

Answer

- MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a): Yes, Sir. Private Scheduled airlines of India having 5 years of continuous operations in the domestic sector and a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft have been permitted to operate on all international routes except UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

(b) &(c): Traffic rights for operation of international air services to/from India are reviewed from time to time as part of an on-going process depending on balance of benefit to our carriers, traffic demand, overall benefit to national economy, political/diplomatic considerations etc. As part of this on-going process, bilateral talks have recently been held with various countries and additional entitlements granted to their airlines. Actual operations are however ultimately guided by commercial judgement of the airlines and traffic demand.

(d) & (e):Upgradation/expansion/development of airports is a continuous process and is undertaken depending upon traffic potential and requirement from airline operators. Several measures are presently at hand to provide additional capacity/reduce congestion at various international airports.